



CELEBRATING
THE BTE STORY:

25 YEARS,
25 LESSONS

Bridge to
Employment
Johnson & Johnson

Celebrating the BTE Story: 25 Years, 25 Lessons distills BTE's 25 years of experience into words of wisdom from those who have been there and done the work. Here we share one of those lessons.

LESSON 10

Come Together as a Global Family

FHI 360 promotes opportunities for BTE partners to engage with and learn from other local BTE programs. Colleagues in different communities may have faced and worked through similar questions and challenges.

Peer to peer conversations between partners playing similar roles in different local BTE programs — for example, Johnson & Johnson volunteers speaking with employee career coaches from another community — can be important. These conversations help Johnson & Johnson employees understand how BTE is implemented within the company culture. Regional partnerships between nearby BTE programs can be effective because the programs may confront similar contextual concerns. This can occur via informal conversations, on an ad hoc basis, structured cross-site activities, or through more formal networks.

Once a year, FHI 360 brings together community partners and students from local BTE programs around the world for the Alliance Building and Training Session (ABTS), a global networking and professional development event. FHI 360 knows that the ABTS is vital in helping BTE partners

maintain focused on our shared global goals and learn from their colleagues in other communities. BTE community partners meet with FHI 360 in sessions focused on strengthening project management. They connect with peers from other BTE sites in role-alike discussions of the particular challenges they face and successes they have achieved. They learn about student activities and accomplishments from many sites, giving them a leg up as they plan upcoming activities for their own students.

ABTS helps community partners and students see the “big picture” of BTE and feel connected to the global BTE family. They build trust and long-standing relationships with BTE colleagues from around the world. The connections forged at ABTS can help promote bonding and networking throughout the year and, most importantly, benefit BTE students.